GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3984
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
WAGE STRUCTURE IN FISHERY SECTOR
Kurup Adv. Suresh

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of wage structure being followed in the fishery sector of the country;

(b) whether there is gender disparity in the wage structure in the sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government for the compliance of law/rules related to wage parity;

(d) whether the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is applicable in the fishery sector; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to implement the said law in the interest of workers engaged in fishery sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a) to (e): Under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both Central and State Governments are the appropriate Governments to fix/revise minimum wages in the scheduled employments in Central and State sphere respectively. Since fishing and allied activities fall under the purview of State Sphere, the State Governments as appropriate Governments have notified minimum wages for such scheduled employments. On the basis of information available, a statement showing minimum wages fixed for unskilled workers engaged in fishing and allied activities by different States/Union Territories is Annexed. Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the rates of minimum wages notified for scheduled employments by the appropriate Governments apply equally to male and female workers. Besides, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 provides for the payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers. The enforcement of ensuring payment of minimum wages in the State Sphere is secured through the State Enforcement Machinery. They conduct regular inspections and in the event of detection of any case of non-payment or under-payment of minimum wages, they advise the employers to make payment of the shortfall of wages. In case of non-compliance, penal provisions prescribed in the Act are taken recourse to. Similarly, provisions existing in the Equal Remuneration Act are availed for its enforcement.